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Rate of Primary Photoproduct Formation for Aqueous
Tris(ethylenediamine) Chromium(III).

by

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	The appearance of primary photoproduct is observed by monitoring a solution, following pulse photolysis at 530 nm, using a high energy 20 nsec laser pulse. Sixty percent of the proudct formation follows the lifetime of the first doublet thexi state; the remaining is prompt and attributed to reaction from the first quartet thexi state.							
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# Rate of Primary Photoproduct Formation for Aqueous Tris(ethylenediamine) Chromium(III).

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#### Sir:

We report here what we believe to be the first direct measurement of the rate of primary photoproduct formation for a Cr(III) coordination compound. The experiment is one of monitoring the rate of absorbance change, following excitation at 530 nm by a high intensity, 20 nsec laser pulse; see Figure 1.

Aqueous  $Cr(en)_3^{3+}$  (at pH 2) was chosen as the initial system because of the wealth of other information available. The photochemistry has been studied in detail; [1] aquation occurs with quantum yield  $\phi = 0.37$  around 25°C, the primary product being  $Cr(en)_2(enH)$  ( $H_20$ ) $^{4+}[2]$ . Emission from the first thexi doublet state,  $D_1^{\circ}$ , has been observed [3] and its lifetime measured in room temperature solution [4]. In addition, emission quenching studies have shown that 50-60% of  $\phi$  is quenched on extensive quenching of emission (with 1.5 M  $Co^{2+}$  or  $Fe^{2+}$  ions [5] or 0.1 M  $OH^{-}$  ions [6]). The general mechanistic picture is shown in Figure 2. Excitation produces a Franck-Condon manifold,  $Q_{FC}$ , which thermally equilibrates rapidly to the first thexi quartet state,  $Q_1^{\circ}$ . Intersystem crossing to  $D_1^{\circ}$  appears to be prompt, that is, to occur before complete thermal equilibration [7].

The most direct interpretation of the emission quenching results is certainly that some 50-60% of photoreaction occurs  $\underline{via}$   $D_1^{\circ}$ , with the rest from  $Q_1^{\circ}$ . However, the required quencher concentrations are sufficiently high that simple mass action kinetics may not be valid, and it is difficult absolutely to rule out the possibility that the effect includes some static or even dynamic  $Q_1^{\circ}$  quenching. The question has been complicated by not knowing whether intersystem crossing is prompt or only through  $Q_1^{\circ}$ , nor what the lifetime of  $Q_1^{\circ}$  is.

The present line of investigation was undertaken as a means of determining lifetimes of reactive excited states directly, that is, through the rate at which they produce primary photoproducts. As a minimum, in the present case, we expected to gain information on the unknown  $Q_1^{\circ}$  lifetime; we might also be able to test or add to inferences from the emission results.

Our typical result is indicated in Figure 1, which includes a copy of an actual oscilloscope photograph. The 20 nsec excitation pulse, shown by one of the sweeps of the dual beam oscilloscope, calibrates the pulse energy for that experiment. The second sweep, usually with another time base, follows the monitoring beam intensity. When monitoring at 580 nm, there is a prompt increase in absorbance (which follows the excitation pulse in rate of appearance), followed by a slower increase of about 1 µsec grow-in time; no further change in absorbance occurs out to at least 200 µsec. Excited state absorption is ruled out since the increased absorption is permanent. We can, further, identify the absorbance change as due to primary photoproduct formation. The expected spectral change is that of a red shift of the first ligand field (L<sub>1</sub>) absorption band [2]. We find the total absorbance increase to be about that calculated for the expected amount of photolysis (ca 5% in the monitored zone of solution). Monitoring at other wavelengths gives

results consistent with the difference spectrum between  $Cr(en)_3^{3+}$  and the photoproduct--including wave-lengths at which decreased rather than increased absorption should occur.

The slower or delayed photoproduct appearance is definitely coupled with  $D_1^{\circ}$ . The grow-in is exponential, and, as shown in Figure 3, the rate constants agree with those for  $D_1^{\circ}$  emission (determined in parallel experiments to the monitored ones). We assign this component of reaction to  $D_1^{\circ}$ .

The prompt absorbance increase must therefore be due to reaction from  $Q_1^{\circ}$ . We can thus conclude that the lifetime of  $Q_1^{\circ}$  is less than 20 nsec. The ratio, R, of the delayed to the prompt increase in optical density (at 580 nm) is 2.35 (essentially independent of temperature). Analysis gives

$$R = \frac{\phi_D(\gamma - 1) + f_{isc}}{\phi_Q(\gamma - 1) - f_{isc}}$$
 (1)

where  $\phi_D$  and  $\phi_Q$  are the partial quantum yields associated with  $D_1^{\circ}$  and  $Q_1^{\circ}$  ( $\phi_D^{\circ} + \phi_Q^{\circ} = \phi$ ),  $\gamma$  is the product to reactant extinction coefficient ratio and  $f_{isc}$  is the intersystem crossing efficiency. The presence of the  $f_{isc}$  terms is a consequence of allowing for ground state bleaching. We find  $\gamma$  to be ca 40 at 580 nm<sup>9</sup>; the  $f_{isc}$  terms are therefore almost neglible and Eq. (1) gives  $\phi_D^{\circ}/\phi = 66-69\%$ . We conclude that about two thirds of photoproduct formation occurs from or through  $D_1^{\circ}$ .

The above figure is somewhat, but perhaps not seriously, higher than the estimates from quantum yield quenching studies  $^{5b,6}$ . It was, of course, desirable to determine the effect of known quenchers on our prompt and delayed absorbance changes. At the high quencher concentrations needed,

however, the monitoring transients became quite complex--we suspect additional chemistry to simple quenching, and are pursuing both this aspect and the behavior of other Cr(III) ammines. The present results confirm, however, that  $D_1^{\circ}$  is indeed the rate controlling precursor to a majority of the photoreaction, and set a maximum lifetime for  $Q_1^{\circ}$ , the other producer of photoproduct.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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- 7. See Ref. 6 and citations therein. In addition, we see emission from  $D_1^{\circ}$  within about 3 nsec of 530 nm excitation. A yet higher rate of appearance of  $D_1^{\circ}$  is found for various Cr(III) thiocyanato complexes (D. kirk, E. Hoggard, G. B. Porter, M. G. Rockley, and M. W. Windsor, Chem. Phys. Letters,  $\underline{37}$ , 199 (1976)), for which  $D_1^{\circ}$  absorption was reported to occur within short psec following excitation. We agree that such rapid appearance of  $D_1^{\circ}$  can be attributed to  $Q_1^{\circ} \rightarrow D_1^{\circ}$ , but believe that various other results (see also Ref. 8) make the prompt process the more likely one.
- 8. F. Castelli and L. S. Forster, J. Phys. Chem., 81, 403 (1977).
- 9. The value of  $\gamma$  was obtained in two ways. The spectra of solutions of Cr(en)<sub>2</sub><sup>3+</sup> was determined for successive degrees of photolysis at 515 nm by means of an Ar ion laser, and the degree of photolysis determined from the changes around 450 nm, using extinction coefficients,  $\varepsilon_n$ , for Cr(en)2(enH)(H20)4+ reported in Ref. 10. Our spectra; which were extended to the 580 nm region, gave the extinction coefficient for the reactant  $Cr(en)_3^{3+}$  as 0.08 ± 0.01  $M^{-1}$ cm<sup>-1</sup> at 580 nm, and, from the calculated degrees of reaction in the successive photolyses,  $\epsilon_{\rm p}$  as 3.3 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>, or  $\gamma$  = ca 40. In addition, Sephadex chromatography of the photolyzed solution yielded an orange fraction having the reported  $^{10}$   $\epsilon_{\rm n}$  of 55  ${\rm M}^{-1}{\rm cm}^{-1}$ at the band maximum at 475 nm. The directly measured  $\varepsilon_{\rm p}$  at 580 nm was again 3.3  $M^{-1}$ cm<sup>-1</sup>. All solutions were filtered through a Millipore filter prior to spectrophotometry since traces of dust can add substantially to the absorption of weekly absorbing solutions. Although the band maxima of the L1 absorption bands for reactant and product are shifted by only about 25 nm, y is large at 580 nm since this wavelength lies on the still descending portion of the product L, band but is at the minimum between the tail of the  $L_1$  band and the onset of the doublet absorption band for  $Cr(en)_3^{3+}$ .

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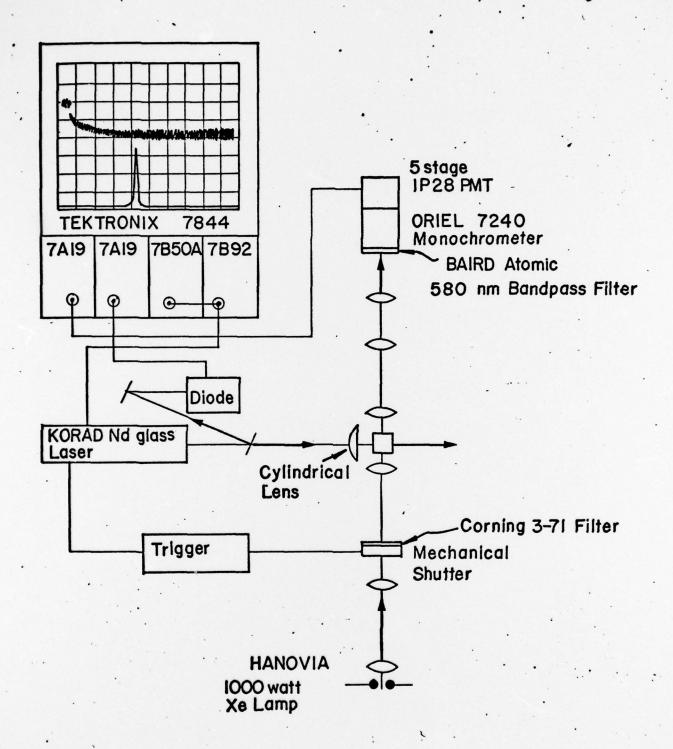
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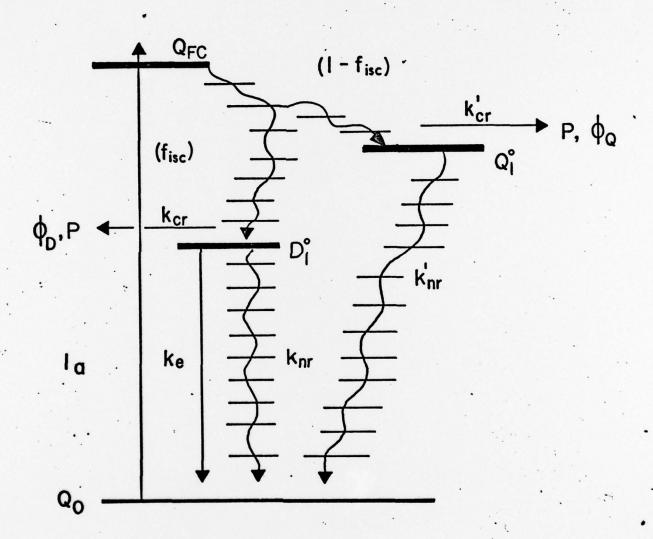
Figure 1. Block diagram of the apparatus. The amplified, frequency doubled Nd glass laser (Korad Co.) produces up to 1.5 J, 20 nsec pulses at 530 nm. The irradiated volume is approximated 2x2x9.5 mm; the monitoring beam scans the first 2 mm depth of solution, the solution path being 9.5 mm. The tracing of an oscilloscope photograph shows photoproduct formation for 0.2M [Cr(en)<sub>3</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in  $1x10^{-2}$  M HClO<sub>4</sub> (twice filtered through 0.22  $\mu$ m Millipore filters--dust produces large monitoring beam disturbances). The upper trace (10 mV/div., 2  $\mu$ sec/div.) shows the transmitted monitoring beam intensity (each division representing 8% transmitted light. The lower trace, (100 nsec/div) shows the photodiode signal; the pulse was ca 1 J. See also Refs. 4c and 11.

<sup>11</sup> A. R. Gutierrez and A. W. Adamson, J. Phys. Chem., submitted.

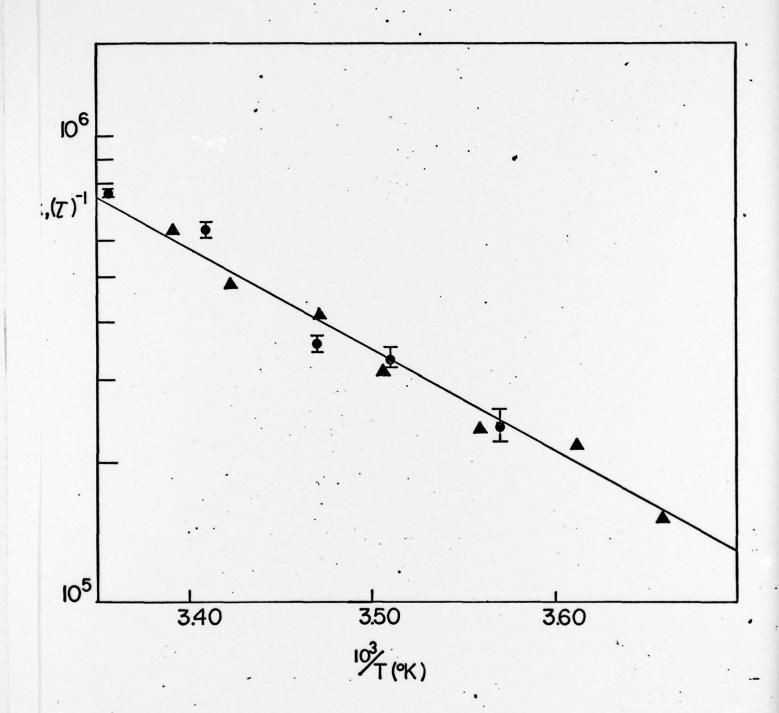
Figure 2. Excited state diagram for a d<sup>3</sup> system.

Figure 3. Rate constant for delayed product grow-in,  $\bullet$ , and  $\tau^{-1}$  for  $D_1^{\circ}$  emission,  $\blacktriangle$ . Apparent activation energy is 10 kcal/mole.





$$Cr(en)_3^{3+} + V \rightarrow Cr(en)_2(enH)(H_2O)^{4+}$$



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